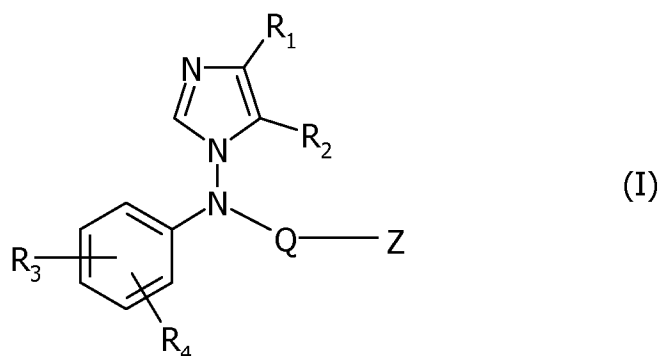


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

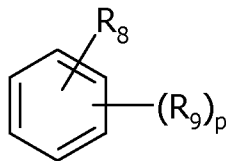
Claims 1-39 (canceled).

40. (currently amended) An imidazole derivative of formula (I):



and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein :

- $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently hydrogen, a  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl;
- $Q$  is selected from the group consisting of ~~a direct link~~  $C(O)$ ,  $SO_2$ ,  $CONH$ ,  $C(O)(CH_2)_n$ ,  $(CH_2)_n(O)$  and  $(CH_2)_n$ , where  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2;
- $Z$  is the group



- one of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  is hydroxy, cyano,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy or  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ; and
- the other of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}SO_2NR_{11}R_{12}$  group,

- $R_4$  is hydrogen and  $R_9$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, acyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ , or  $CO_2R_{10}$  group,
- $R_{10}$ ,  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  are each independently hydrogen or a  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl;
- $p$  is 1, 2, 3 or 4;
- when  $p$  is 2, 3 or 4, each  $R_9$  can be the same or different;
- when  $p=1$ ,  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  together with the phenyl ring bearing them can also form a benzoxathiazine dioxide, a dihydrobenzoxathiazine dioxide, or a benzoxathiazole dioxide;

with the proviso that when  $Q$  is  $(CH_2)_n$ ,  $n$  is 0, 1 or 2 and

1) when  $p$  is 1, then one of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  is hydroxyl or a  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  group;

2) when  $p$  is 2,  $R_3$  is cyano or  $(C_1-C_6)$  alkoxy and  $R_8$  is hydrogen, then one  $R_9$  is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, acyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ , and  $CO_2R_{10}$ , and the other  $R_9$  is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, nitro,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ , and  $CO_2R_{10}$ ;

3) when  $p$  is 3 or 4, then each  $R_9$  is other than hydrogen

~~2) when  $p$  is 2, 3 or 4, then each  $R_9$  is other than hydrogen, and~~

~~3) when  $p$  is 2, then each  $R_9$  is hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, acyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  or  $CO_2R_{10}$  group;~~

41. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- one of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  is cyano; and

- the other is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>) alkoxy, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, NR<sub>12</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> group.

Claim 42 (canceled).

43. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- R<sub>9</sub> is hydrogen or a hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, CHO, NR<sub>12</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> group.

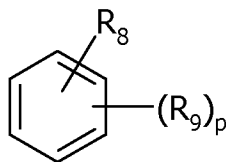
44. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- R<sub>9</sub> is hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>10</sub>, or CHO.

Claim 45 (canceled).

46. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- Z is



- Q is (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> in which n 0, 1 or 2;
- R<sub>8</sub> is hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, or NR<sub>12</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> group; and

- $R_9$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ , or  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ .

47. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- $n$  is 0 or 1; and
- $R_9$  is hydrogen, halogen,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, acyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  or  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ .

48. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- $n$  is 0 or 1;
- $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each hydrogen; and
- $R_9$  is hydrogen, halogen,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl or  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ .

49. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- $n$  and  $p$  are 1;
- $R_8$  is a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$  or  $OSO_2NR_{10}SO_2NR_{11}R_{12}$  group;
- $R_9$  a hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl,  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ ,  $CO_2R_{10}$  or CHO group; and
- $R_3$  is cyano, hydroxy, or  $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ .

50. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein one of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  is hydroxy, cyano or

OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> and the other of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> is hydroxy, nitro, NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> or NR<sub>12</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>.

51. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 50, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein one of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> is cyano or OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub> and the other is hydroxy or OSO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>.

52. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> are hydrogen.

53. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 40, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance.

54. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a derivative according to claim 40, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

55. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 54, comprising from 0.1 to 400 mg of said derivative.

56. (currently amended) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is selected the group consisting of:

- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)amino]methylbenzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methylbenzonitrile,

- 4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile
- 4-[N-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-bromo-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-formyl-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}benzene sulphonamide,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxy-3-nitrophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 5-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}-2-methoxybenzoic acid,
- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-nitrophenyl)amino]benzonitrile,
- N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetamide,
- N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamide,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)propanamide,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4-(phenylmethoxy)-benzensulfonamide,
- 4-[N-(3-amino-4-hydroxy-phenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,

- 4-{N-[2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)ethyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino}benzonitrile,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4-hydroxybenzensulfonamide,
- 4-[N-(4-aminophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- Sulfamic acid 4-[N-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-chloro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester, hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 2-methoxy-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- N-{4-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl}sulfamide,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]sulfonyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{2-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-carbamoyl]-methyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]-3-oxopropyl} phenyl ester,

- Sulfamic acid 3-(aminosulfonyl)amino-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- 2-Bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl amidimidodisulfate acid,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3,4-dihydro-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 5-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}-2-hydroxybenzoic acid,
- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(phenyl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-tosylamino-4-hydroxy-benzyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3-tosyl-3H-1,2,3-benzoxathiazol-5-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3H-1,2,3-benzoxathiazol-5-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile, and
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N'-phenylurea,
- ~~4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)amino]methylbenzonitrile, and~~
- ~~4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methylbenzonitrile.~~

57. (previously presented) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is selected from the group consisting of:

- Sulfamic acid 4-[N-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-chloro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,



- Sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 2-methoxy-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]sulfonyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{2-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-carbamoyl]-methyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]-3-oxopropyl} phenyl ester, and
- Sulfamic acid 3-(aminosulfonyl)amino-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester.

58. (previously presented) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride.

Claim 59 (canceled).